



Mr. Sergei Stanishev
President
Party of European Socialists

PES Presidency Members

Bratislava, October 8, 2015

Dear President,
Dear Members of the PES Presidency,
Dear friends,

Please accept my apologies that I will not be able to attend the PES Presidency meeting in person. Indeed, I wanted to be present, but, unfortunately, as the Prime Minister, I will be abroad on a mission planned long time ago. Therefore, I have entrusted the First Vice-President of the party, Pavol Paška, with representing me during the meeting.

I would like to underline the fact that on 5 October 2015, I had the opportunity to have a discussion with the Members of the S-D political group in the European Parliament in Strasbourg under the leadership of the Group President Gianni Pittella. I would once again like to reject the statements appearing in the media, in which I supposedly talked about migrants or minorities in a discriminatory manner.

Government composed of a single political party – SMER – SD has been showing solidarity regarding all important European topics. It repeatedly emphasizes that it is prepared - in the spirit of solidarity - to help everyone, who is in urgent need of assistance. People in peril shall receive a helping hand from Slovakia, regardless their religion, skin colour, race.

The Slovak Government is prepared to participate in all meaningful initiatives, which may bring solutions to the migration crisis. At this moment the Government of the Slovak Republic is offering the following:

- military, technical, or health-care assistance in countries of origin;

- substantial support to refugees in camps;
- co-operation in protection of the Schengen borders, contribution of the amount of 20 mil. EUR to Frontex operation and financial contribution to food assistance for the most exposed camps;
- financial and material support to the Slovak non-governmental sector, charities, and churches providing assistance to migrants.

The Slovak Government is convinced that the mechanism of assisting asylum seekers in Austria is especially effective. It is based on a bilateral agreement between the Slovak Republic and Austria, and it stipulates that migrants shall stay for a certain period of time in Slovakia. Within this mechanism of temporary placement to Slovakia of those seeking asylum in Austria, we are willing to enter talks about increasing the agreed capacities in this regard.

Dear President,
Dear Members of the PES Presidency,
Dear friends,

I trust that we are able to overcome the current challenges and problems thanks to mutual dialogue and common efforts.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Fico', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Fico

Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic
Chairman of SMER – Social Democracy